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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/796,862	03/09/2004	Atsushi Kakiuchi	OPS C-638	2677

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FLYNN THIEL BOUTELL & TANIS, P.C.  
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KALAMAZOO, MI 49008-1631

EXAMINER
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JONES, HEATHER RAE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2621

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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01/11/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/796,862

Applicant(s)

KAKIUCHI, ATSUSHI

Examiner

Heather R. Jones

Art Unit

2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/9/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukutani et al. (U.S. Patent 6,038,431) in view of Berkheimer et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0206711).

Regarding claim 1, Fukutani et al. discloses an integrating configuration of combined electronic equipment having a housing provided with therein an optical disc recording and reproducing unit having an optical disc insertion portion at a front face thereof, a first circuit board having a control circuit of said optical disc recording and reproducing unit, a video cassette recording and reproducing unit having a video cassette insertion portion at a front face thereof and arranged in parallel with said optical disc recording and reproducing unit, a second circuit board having a control circuit of said video cassette recording and reproducing unit, and a power supply circuit board; said first circuit board is disposed between said optical disc recording and reproducing unit and a bottom face of an interior of said housing; said second circuit board being disposed between said video cassette recording and reproducing unit and the bottom face of the interior of said housing; and said power supply circuit board is integrated with said second

circuit board so as to be disposed between said first circuit board and said second circuit board, and disposed between said optical disc recording and reproducing unit and the bottom face of the interior of said housing (Figs. 8, 17, 19A; col. 6 lines 49-col. 7 line 16; col. 16 lines 1-24; col. 19 lines 55-67; col. 22 lines 23-32). However Fukutani et al. fails to disclose wherein said optical disc recording and reproducing unit is supported by a plurality of supporting members so that the insertion portion of said optical disc recording and reproducing unit becomes substantially the same in height as the insertion portion of the video cassette recording and reproducing unit.

Referring to the Berkheimer et al. reference, Berkheimer et al. discloses an integrating configuration of combined electronic equipment, wherein said optical disc recording and reproducing unit is supported by a plurality of supporting members so that the insertion portion of said optical disc recording and reproducing unit becomes substantially the same in height as the insertion portion of the video cassette recording and reproducing unit (Fig. 1 – the insertion points are substantially the same height).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used supporting members to make the insertion points to be the same heights for both units as disclosed by Berkheimer et al. in the Fukutani et al. device in order to allow all the controls to be in the same area rather than scattered around the insertion points.

Regarding claim 2, Fukutani et al. in view of Berkheimer et al. discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 1 including that the first circuit board has wiring patterns at both faces thereof, and said second circuit board has a wiring pattern at one face thereof (Figs. 8, 17, 19A; col. 6 lines 49-col. 7 line 16; col. 16 lines 1-24; col. 19 lines 55-67; col. 22 lines 23-32).

Regarding claim 3, Fukutani et al. in view of Berkheimer et al. discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 1 but fails to disclose that the external connection terminals, which are exposed from the back face of said housing, are attached to rear end portions of said first circuit board and said second circuit board. Official Notice is taken that it is well known in the art to have the external connection terminals exposed from the back face. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the external connection terminals exposed from the back face so that the cables connected to the external connection terminals are not interfering with the insertion points and the controls.

Regarding claim 4, Fukutani et al. in view of Berkheimer et al. discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 1, but fails to disclose that a transformer mounted on said power supply circuit board is disposed such that a core thereof is placed horizontally relative to a face of said power supply circuit board. Official Notice is taken that it is well known to have a transformer on a power supply circuit board. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

have a transformer on a power supply circuit board in order to produce enough power to supply all the components as needed. Furthermore, it would have been obvious to place the core of the transformer horizontally relative to the power supply circuit board so that takes up less room in the housing device and the circuitry can be more compact.

Regarding claim 5, Fukutani et al. in view of Berkheimer et al. discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 1 including that at least one of the supporting members is disposed between said first circuit board and said power supply circuit board (Fig. 1 – a supporting member will come into contact with the power supply circuit board so that none of the other circuit boards will come into contact with it and create noise to disturb the power supply circuit board).

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Heather R. Jones whose telephone number is 571-272-7368. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thurs.: 7:00 am - 4:30 pm, and every other Fri.: 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on 571-272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Heather R Jones  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2621

HRJ  
January 6, 2008

  
JOHN MILLER  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600